

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-19. (canceled)

20. (new) A storage system coupled to a host computer via a network, comprising:
first and second storage volumes being configured to store data accessed from the host computer according to a block access command;
first setting information associated with the first storage volume; and
a storage controller being configured to copy data in the first storage volume to the second storage volume according to a copy request from the host computer, the copy request including information specifying the first storage volume;
wherein the second storage volume is managed based on the first setting information associated with the first storage volume after the data stored in the first storage volume are copied to the second storage volume.

21. (new) The storage system of claim 20, wherein the block access command includes SCSI and iSCSI.

22. (new) The storage system of claim 20, wherein the first setting information is copied as a second setting information associated with the second storage so that the second storage is managed based on the first setting information when the data in the first storage volume are copied to the second storage volume.

23. (new) The storage system of claim 20, wherein the first setting information includes attributes and permission information for the first storage volume managed by the storage system.

24. (new) The storage system of claim 23, wherein the permission information indicates one or more attributes that may not be changed while a retention period for the first storage volume has not expired.

25. (new) The storage system of claim 20, wherein the first setting information includes retention information associated with the first storage volume.

26. (new) The storage system of claim 25, wherein the data are copied from the first storage volume to the second storage volume after a first retention period for the first storage volume has expired, the retention information defining the first retention period.